



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

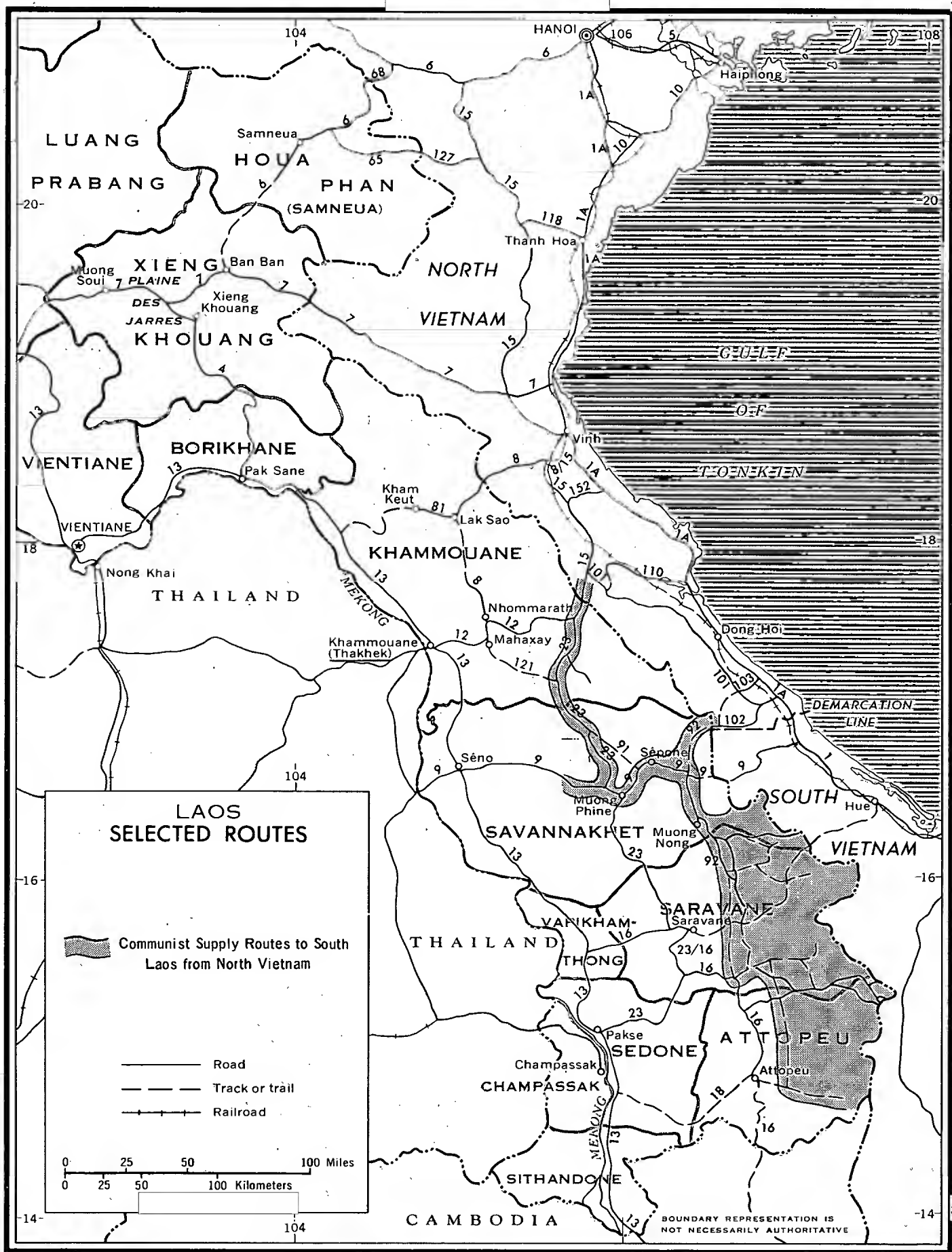


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Nov
18-DECEMBER 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
18 NOVEMBER 1965

1. Indonesia

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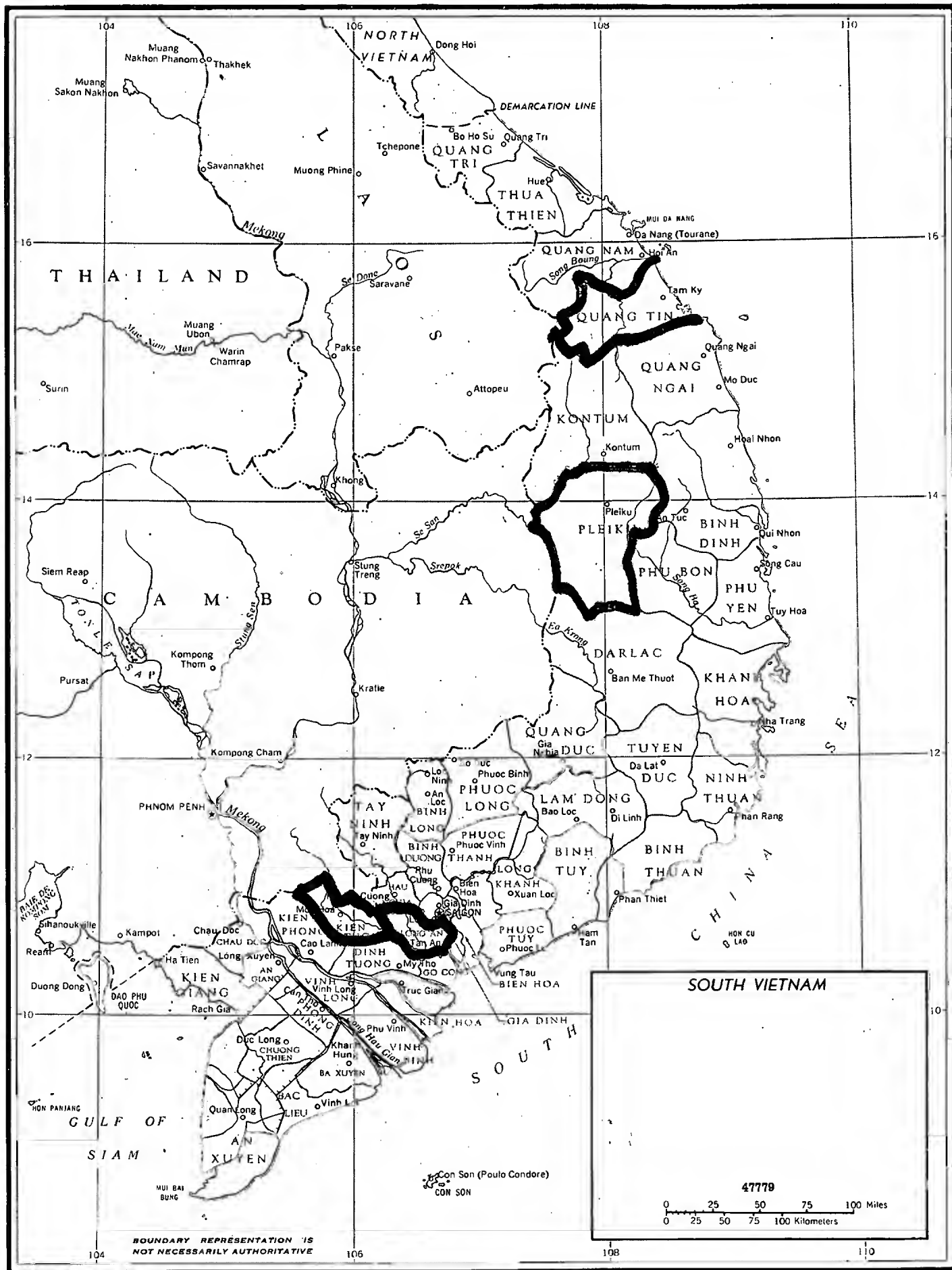
Sukarno's next move in the power struggle may be to give the appearance of succumbing to army pressure by banning the Communist Party. A few days later, however, he would follow through with an order eliminating all other political parties and forming a single new party which would include Communists in its leadership.

Army leaders still seem unsure of themselves, however. One of their chief worries is the uncertain loyalty of the enlisted men and lower officer ranks in the event of a showdown with Sukarno. One sign of this was their recent decision to sell their sedans and drive around in jeeps. This seems designed to reduce their vulnerability to charges of ostentatious living which have apparently been used against them among lower ranks.

2. Laos

Reinforced government forces in central Laos have apparently blunted recent Communist probes east of Thakhek, but the Communists continue to make gains elsewhere.

Substantial Communist troop movements reported earlier this week suggest an intention to maintain pressure. So far, however, it does not appear that a major Communist offensive is in prospect in Laos. The action seems more likely designed to inhibit interference with the infiltration routes into South Vietnam.



3. Communist China

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4. South Vietnam

Communist military activity is on the increase in several areas of South Vietnam.

In addition to the engagement near Plei Me, where US forces remain in close contact with the enemy, three other engagements involving at least battalion-strength Communist forces have recently been reported.

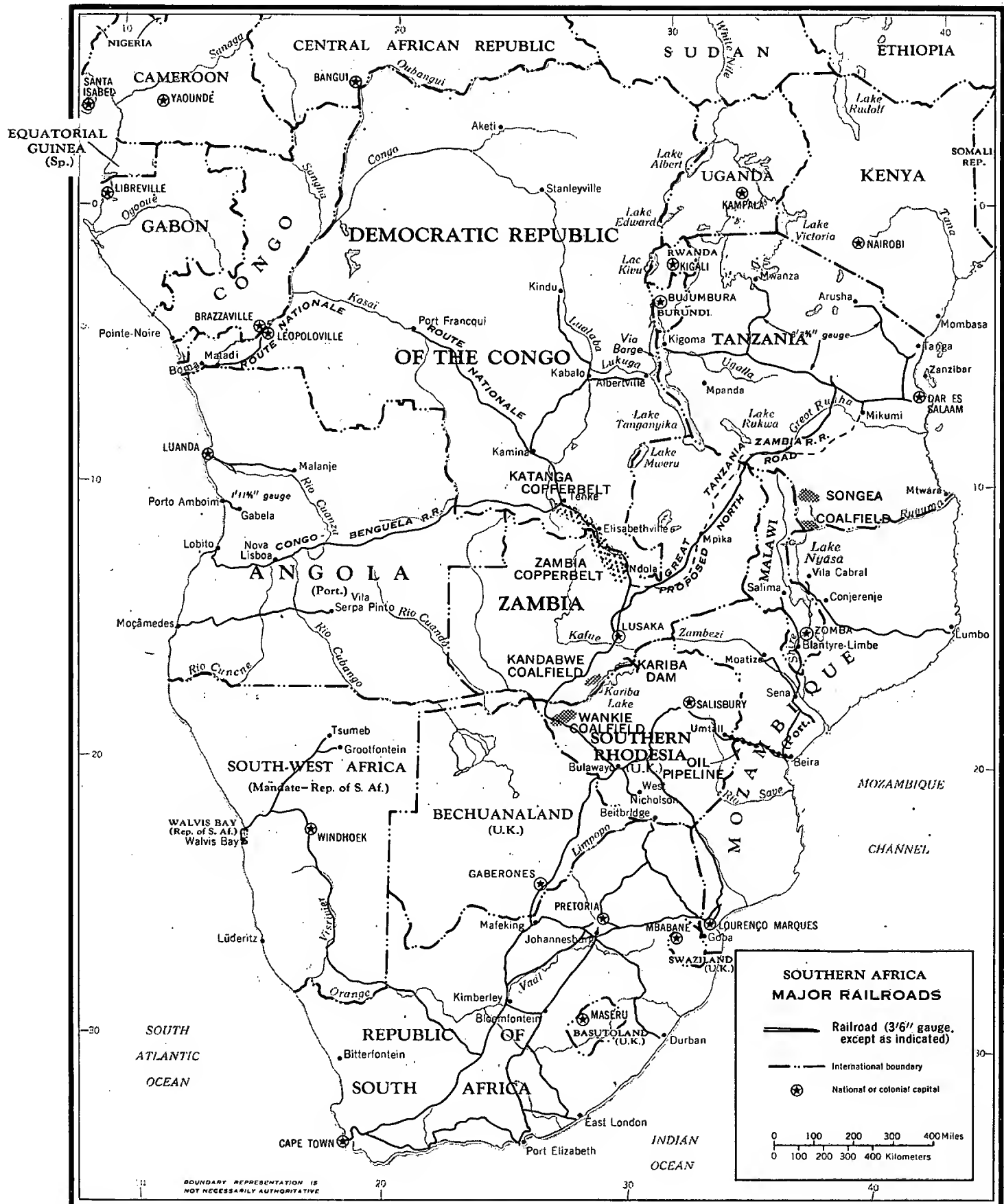
These include an attack yesterday by about two battalions on an airfield in Long An Province, some 30 miles southwest of Saigon. Another Viet Cong battalion overran a South Vietnamese district headquarters in Quang Tin Province. The third engagement took place on Tuesday when a Viet Cong battalion captured a special forces outpost in Kien Tuong Province. South Vietnamese troops later reoccupied this position. (Map)

5. Tanzania

The Chinese economic aid program seems to be getting under way. A quantity of cement has just arrived in Dar es Salaam for the Mao-Tse-tung textile mill which is to be built on the edge of town.

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6. Rhodesia

There was more open opposition to independence by black Rhodesians in the industrial area of Bulawayo today. The railway yards there were crippled by a wildcat strike.

This does not seem to be a major challenge to the Smith regime, however. The consensus of the remaining foreign representatives in Salisbury is that the internal security situation is well in hand and that there is no discernible split within the government's political base. They concede that Smith's position may become more shaky as economic sanctions take effect, but believe this may not come until next May or June when the tobacco crop is ready for marketing.

In Zambia, President Kaunda continues trying to line up support for his vulnerable country. Some white Rhodesians, who comprise the bulk of the skilled workers in Zambia's copperbelt, are ostentatiously expressing their support for Smith and interracial tensions seem to be rising.
(Map)

7. Cyprus

At last report, the Turkish Air Force had eight fighter-bombers, armed with napalm, tanks, bombs, rockets, and Sidewinders, on alert at the air base near Ankara.

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8. Cuba

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9. Dominican Republic

A long-smoldering feud within Juan Bosch's political party is coming into the open. In essence it is a struggle for control of the party between the Bosch forces and Angel Miolan, former party head.

Miolan has been moving with some effect in recent weeks to rebuild his former strength among local party units. He hopes to win control of the next party convention, which is likely to be held early next year. At present Miolan is professing a moderate, responsible political stance, but his past record shows him to be motivated primarily by opportunism.

10. British Guiana

Over the past two weeks there has been an upswing in acts of violence and sabotage, mostly inspired by Jagan and his followers, with an eye to the talks on independence now going on in London.

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All of this points to an effort on Jagan's part to prevent or delay by violence independence under his arch enemy, Prime Minister Burnham.

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